

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 05574 141215Z

50

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NEA-06 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 L-01 IO-03 PRS-01 MC-01 /050 W

----- 129618

P R 141205Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0147

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05574

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT REPEAT DOD AND OTHER ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, LY, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH ARMS SALES POLICY TOWARD LIBYA

1. DAILY EXPRESS APRIL 11 CARRIED SENSATIONALIST STORY
BY CHAPMAN PINCHER (ALSO PICKED UP BY OTHER PAPERS) THAT
PM WILSON HAS REFUSED LIBYAN ARMS ORDERS AMOUNTING TO A
BILLION POUNDS STERLING AND PROMISING JOB SECURITY FOR
THOUSANDS OF BRITISH WORKERS. PM'S OFFICE DENIED THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 05574 141215Z

STORY. PRESS WAS DIRECTED TO FCO SPOKESMAN WHO SAID

LIBYAN ARMS REQUESTS ARE BEING GIVEN VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

2. FCO SOURCES (WEIR AND WILLIAMS) TELL US STORY WAS PROBABLY PLANTED BY SCHEMING DUO CONNECTED WITH PURCHASING OFFICE OF LIBYAN EMBASSY PARIS: ONE COLONEL DAKHIL REPRESENTING GOL AND BRITISH BUSINESSMAN MICHEL WHO HAS CENTRAL EUROPEAN BACKGROUND. THESE TWO HAVE BEEN PRESSING VARIETY OF ARMS REQUESTS FOR LIBYA PRIMARILY IN SEARCH OF PERSONAL PROFIT, BRITISH THINK.

3. AMONG ITEMS MENTIONED IN PAST HAVE BEEN JAGUAR AIRCRAFT AND VICKERS BATTLE TANK (LATTER OF WHICH HAS BEEN ABANDONED BY BRITISH THEMSELVES). LIBYANS APPEAR TO HAVE LOST INTEREST IN JAGUAR NOW THAT THEY ARE GETTING MIRAGE F-1. HOWEVER, PARISIAN DUO HAS RECENTLY BEEN PRESSING HARD FOR SEVERAL BRITISH SUBMARINES, AND LIBYAN EMBASSY LONDON HAS CONFIRMED GOL INTEREST. FCO HAS TOLD LIBYAN EMBASSY THAT REQUEST IS BEING CONSIDERED BUT PROSPECTS OF HMG AGREEING TO SALE ANYTIME SOON ARE UNFAVORABLE.

4. FCO OFFICIALS TELL US BRITISH ARE NOT ABOUT TO SELL LIBYA SUBMARINES, JAGUARS, OR ANY OTHER ITEMS OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT IN VIEW OF USES TO WHICH LIBYANS MIGHT PUT THEM. AT SAME TIME, LIBYAN CONNECTION WITH IRA IN NORTHERN IRELAND ALSO RULES OUT ITEMS OF SMALL WEAPONRY. ONLY THINGS HMG MIGHT EVENTUALLY SELL LIBYANS WOULD BE RELATIVELY INNOCUOUS ITEMS SUCH AS NAVAL SUPPORT SHIPS, RADAR, ETC. HOWEVER, BRITISH PREFER WHENEVER POSSIBLE TO KEEP REQUESTS IN ABEYANCE RATHER THAN DEFINITELY TURN LIBYANS DOWN. OFFICIALS DO NOT EXPECT THIS LATEST LIBYAN PLOY TO HAVE ANY PRACTICAL EFFECT ON HMG ARMS POLICY.

RICHARDSSPIERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, ARMS SHIPMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON05574
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750129-0473
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750454/aaaabylm.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH ARMS SALES POLICY TOWARD LIBYA
TAGS: MASS, LY, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006